Expatriate pilots in India

908. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of expatriate pilots working in India;

(b) whether they have been given special treatment; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) At present, 494 expatriate pilots are working in various scheduled airlines in India. Air India and Air India Express have 40 and 54 expatriate pilots respectively. Alliance Air have 20 expatriate pilots while Indian Airlines has no expatriate pilots. The remaining expatriate pilots are employed with private scheduled airlines.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Replacement of ageing aircrafts

†909. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of aircrafts with Air India and Indian which have been in use for more than 15 years;

(b) the period as per norms for which an aircraft is considered airworthy; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to replace aircrafts which have crossed their usable life period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Air India and Indian Airlines have in use 13 and 42 aircraft respectively which are more than 15 years in age.

(b) and (c) Aircraft are considered airworthy provided the maintenance is as per approved schedule and programme and all mandatory modifications stipulated by the DGCA as well as regulatory authorities of the aircraft manufacturing countries are carried out regularly. All the aircraft in airlines fleet are maintained to the highest airworthiness standards and meet all the requirements of the regulatory authorities.

Multi airports for Indian cities

910. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that large cities in the world have two or three airports serving them;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not encouraging multi-airports for Indian cities like Hyderabad, Delhi, etc. ;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.